

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 01259 051733Z

72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /133 W
----- 122742

R 050850Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2758

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 1259

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS GH TO

SUBJ: FORJOE/HUNLEDE PRESS CONFERENCES: GOG PLAYS IT COOL

REF: (A) LOME 479 (B) LOME 459 (NOTAL)

1. GHANAIAN PRESS MARCH 2 GAVE FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT AMBASSADOR FORJOE'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN LOME (REFTEL A), IN WHICH GHANAIAN AMBASSADOR DECLARED GHANA HAS NO RPT NO INTENTION CEDING ANY PART OF ITS TERRITORY. (FOR LAGOS AND USUN: AT WELCOMING CEREMONY FOR VISITING UNSYG WALDHEIM IN LOME, NATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR LIBERATION WESTERN TOGOLAND--NMLWT--WITH, ACCORDING REFTELS, APPARENT CONNIVANCE TOGOLESE GOVERNMENT, PRESENTED PETITION TO UNSYG DEMANDING REUNIFICATION GHANA'S VOLTA REGION--FORMER BRITISH TOGOLAND--WITH TOGO. GHANAIAN AMBASSADOR HELD PRESS CONFERENCE MAKE GOG POSITIONCLEAR, AND THIS FOLLOWED BY PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY TOGOLESE FOREIGN MINISTER.)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ACCRA 01259 051733Z

2. GHANAIA PRESS MARCH 4 CARRIES BRIEF ACCOUNT OF FOREIGN MINISTER HUNLEDE'S PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL B), REPORTING THAT TOGOLESE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCED GOT HAD NOT RPT NO INTENTION OF ALLOWING TOGOLESE TERRITORY TO BE USED AS "SUBVERSIVE GROUND" AGAINST ANY NEIGHBORING COUNTRY.

3. EDITORIALS IN GHANAIA GOVERNMENT-OWNED PRESS MARCH 2, WHILE GOING EASY ON TOGOLESE GOVERNMENT AND PRAISING NRC'S EFFORTS IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH TOGO, HAD SOME VERY HARSH WORDS FOR TWO FORMER GHANAIA AMBASSADORS, S.G. ANTOR AND E.O. KOFI DUMOGA, WHO ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN WALDHEIM INCIDENT. PAPERS DECLARED THOSE TWO INVOLVED IN NMLWT ACTIVITIES AND INFERRED THEY BEING USED AS TOOLS IN ANTI-AFRICAN ACTIVITIES. PAIR WERE CHARACTERIZED AS TRAITORS. PRESS SOUGHT TO PORTRAY CALLS FOR SECESSION IN AFRICA AS OLD POLITICAL GAME (READ COLONIALIST EFFORTS WEAKEN AFRICA) AND ANTI-AFRICAN. "GHANAIA TIMES" SAID FORJOE HAD SPOKEN FOR ALL GHANAIA WHEN HE DECLARED GHANA HAD NO INTENTION CEDE ANY PART OF ITS TERRITORY.

4. COMMENT: GOG CANNOT BE PLEASED WITH PUBLICITY GIVEN NMLWT BUT THUS FAR IS PLAYING IT VERY COOL, BEING CAREFUL TO AVOID ANY PUBLIC CHARGE OF TOGOLESE GOVERNMENT COMPLICITY IN THE INCIDENT. GOVERNMENT THUS FAR IS TAKING OUT ITS DISPLEASURE ON THE TWO FORMER AMBASSADORS, BOTH EWES FROM THE VOLTA REGION. GOG OFFICIALS CONTINUE IN BELIEF THAT NMLWT IS NOT RPT NOT SIGNIFICANT SECURITY THREAT AND THAT MAJORITY EWES IN GHANA PREFER GHANIAN ADMINISTRATION TO TOGOLESE. (WE WONDER, TOO, WHETHER TOGOLESE NON-EWE MAJORITY WOULD WELCOME INCORPORATION OF MORE EWES INTO A GREATER TOGO.) BUT WHATEVER GOG IS PUBLICLY SAYING ABOUT INCIDENT, WE IMAGINE THAT PRESIDENT EYADEMA WILL BE INFORMED PRIVATELY IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS OF GHANAIA UNHAPPINESS. INCIDENT CANNOT CONTRIBUTE TO GOOD GHANA/TOGO RELATIONS, WHICH ARE PLAGUED WITH BORDER PROBLEMS INVOLVING SMUGGLING AND ILLEGAL MONEY-CHANGING ACTIVITIES. GOG HAS NOT FOCUSED ON UNSYG'S REPORTED GRATUITOUS COMMENT THAT HE HOPED THE "PROBLEM" COULD BE WORKED OUT PREACEFULLY BY TWO GOVERNMENTS. GOG MAY NOT ADDRESS THIS POINT, SINCE IT BELIEVES "PROBLEM" RESOLVED BY 1956 PLEBISCITE IN WHICH MAJORITY BRITISH TOGOLANDERS OPTED FOR INCORPORATION IN GHANA.

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